

MEADVILLE, PA.
 TRIBUNE

MORNING 15,319

MAY 6 1961

Intelligence Is Vital

Official intelligence relating to plans for the ill-fated invasion of Cuba must have been neither adequate in quantity nor correctly analyzed.

Since sound facts are the basis for sound policy, it is imperative that the nation's vital intelligence activities be examined so that such a mistake will not be repeated. President Kennedy has just appointed Dr. James R. Killian Jr. to head a committee charged with making such an examination. He previously had asked Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor to investigate the nation's policies and capabilities in the field of guerrilla warfare. From these two studies may come not only an answer as to what went wrong in Cuba, but also some revision in our military and intelligence activities.

Intelligence and its correct analysis are of the utmost importance to national security. That was recognized by Congress in 1947 when it revised the wartime Office of Strategic Services into the Central Intelligence Agency to coordinate over-all government intelligence work relating to national security. It was authorized to undertake such tasks as the National Security Council might direct. Its findings were to be available to the executive branch of government.

Congress apparently had in mind the Pearl Harbor experience when officials didn't deal adequately with the information that was made avail-

able. The intelligence had not been disseminated and analyzed properly. Under today's conditions information needs to be reviewed almost hourly. Estimates of the nation's position must never be static.

Other intelligence failures have left their marks on history. The Kaiser and Adolf Hitler both miscalculated the strength and determination of their enemies. The United States underestimated its information about Red Chinese activity in Korea. The French government only recently was caught by surprise in Algiers.

Intelligence-gathering is not an exact science. And it cannot be conducted successfully in the glare of national publicity. Officials can't be expected to advise the public everytime they know that a coup is pending in some foreign country. But it is becoming more and more exact as scientific methods come into greater play.

Although the Central Intelligence Agency has chalked up some notable successes and its director, Allen W. Dulles, has been a devoted and capable official, it is high time that our intelligence setup be reviewed and strengthened. The nation might survive another Cuban debacle, serious and humiliating as that has been, but it might not survive another Pearl Harbor. And the nation needs to know, not for the sake of placing the blame but for purposes of correction, just what went wrong in Cuba.